

REMARKS

Entry of the amended claims is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (1) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (2) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution without incorporating additional subject matter); (3) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and/or (4) place the application in better form for appeal (if necessary). Entry is thus requested.

By the present response, Applicants have canceled claims 14, 18 and 21-23 without disclaimer. Further, Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 11, 16 and 17 to further clarify the invention. Claims 1-13, 15-17, 19 and 20 remain pending in the present application. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

In the Office Action claims 1, 3-5 and 11-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,429,808 (King et al.). Claims 6-10 have been allowed. Claim 2 has been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Serial No. **10/603,804**

Docket No. **K-0532**

Amendment dated April 12, 2006

Reply to Office Action of January 10, 2006

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 6-10 and indicating that claim 2 contains allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

Claims 1, 3-5 and 11-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by King et al. Claims 14, 18 and 21-23 have been canceled, therefore, rendering these rejections moot. Regarding claims 1 and 11, Applicants submit these claims have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2, deemed allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, these claims are now allowable over the cited references at least for these reasons. Regarding claims 3-5, 12, 13, 15-17, 19 and 20, Applicants submit that these claims are dependent on one of independent claims 1 and 11 and, therefore, are patentable at least for the same reasons noted regarding these independent claims.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that none of the cited references disclose or suggest the limitations in the combination of each of claims 1, 3-5, 11-13, 15-17, 19 and 20 of the present application. Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn and that these claims be allowed.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 1-13, 15-17, 19 and 20 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of such claims is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, Frederick D. Bailey, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
FLESHNER & KIM, LLP



Daniel Y.J. Kim
Registration No. 36,186
Frederick D. Bailey
Registration No. 42,282

P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, Virginia 20153-1200
703 766-3701 DYK/FDB:tlg

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Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610